

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended page(s), in which:

- Claims 1, and 5 to 8 are amended to better define the invention; and
- Claim 4 is cancelled.

By these amendments, claims 1 - 3, and 5 - 8 are pending. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

- Remarks -

Priority

Priority document PO7979 was erroneously identified as PP7979 due to a typographical error. Applicant lodges herewith a corrected claim to priority correctly stating the intended priority document number, and apologizes for the inconvenience caused.

Applicant further notes that certified copies of both PO7979 and PO7991 were submitted in relation to the parent application of the present application, (09/113,053). It is therefore believed that additional certified copies are not required for the present application. If, however, Applicant is incorrect in this belief, additional certified copies can be provided upon further notice.

35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under §103(a) over Shintani et al. (US 5,875,034) in view of Bagchi et al. (US 5,916,358).

Independent claim 1 is amended to clarify the nature of the claimed invention, and to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited references.

As described in the background portion of the present specification, processors used in image processing have in the past been predominantly RISC processors. However, VLIW processors have recently been introduced. A problem with the use of VLIW processors, however, has been the transfer of data to and from an image sensor to the VLIW processor. The data between the VLIW processor and the image sensor needs to be converted to formats understood respectively by the VLIW processor and the image sensor.

Present devices employ an image sensing interface positioned between the VLIW processor and the image sensor. However, due to the large amount of data involved, such an arrangement places a large burden on the data bus connecting the components of the device, and requires more than one interface.

According to the present invention, an image sensor interface and a printhead interface is instead integrated with a VLIW processor into a one-chip microcontroller. Such an arrangement overcomes the problems described above.

Applicant submits that neither Shintani et al. nor Bagchi et al. teach or suggest this arrangement.

Claims 6 and 7, which are further rejected in view of Duncan et al. (US 6,597,394) and Nakayama et al. (US 2002/0024603) respectively, are respectfully submitted to be novel and inventive for like reasons as presented above for claim 1 as Duncan et al. and Nakayama et al. also fail to teach or suggest the features of amended claim 1.

Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant looks forward to word of further official communication in due course.

Very respectfully,

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